



S/N 10/004661

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Thomas A. Figura Examiner: Yennhu Huynh
Serial No.: 10/004661 Group Art Unit: 2813
Filed: December 4, 2001 Docket No.: 303.645US3
Title: METHOD AND STRUCTURE FOR IMPROVED ALIGNMENT TOLERANCE
IN MULTIPLE, SINGULARIZED PLUGS

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This response is accompanied by a Petition, as well as the appropriate fee, to obtain a one-month extension of the period for responding to the Office Action, thereby moving the deadline for response from November 18, 2003 to December 18, 2003.

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REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on August 18, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

No claims are amended or added; as a result, claims 1, 4-11, reinstated claims 12-31, and claims 32-52 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jeng et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,792,687) in view of Choi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,410,390).

Claim 1 recites an "inner plug" and a pair of "outer plugs in which the inner plug is isolated "beneath" and "between" the adjacent pair of the multiple surface structures. Claim 1 also recites that the outer plugs cover "part of top portions" of the adjacent pair.

Jeng et al. does not disclose an inner plug being isolated "beneath" and "between" the adjacent pair of the multiple surface structures. Jeng et al. also does not disclose the outer plugs that cover "part of top portions" of the adjacent pair.

Choi et al. does not disclose an inner plug being isolated "beneath" and "between" the adjacent pair of the multiple surface structures. Choi et al. also does not disclose the outer plugs that cover "part of top portions" of the adjacent pair. In FIG. 7i of Choi et al., inner plug 47a is